Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02897 291249Z ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4341

S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 2897

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, UY

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

REF: STATE 170677

- 1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA RECEIVED ME AFTERNOON JULY 28. I REVIEWED WITH HIM ALL OF THE POINTS CONTAINED PARA TWO OF REFTEL AND EXPRESSED OUR DISMAY THAT IDEA FLOATED IN GREAT CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN SO WIDELY CIRCULATED IN MONTEVIDEO AND HAS BEEN SO DISTORTED IN PRESENTATION AND/OR IN REACTION SO AS TO COMPLETELY CHANGE WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED AS AN IDEA WHICH MIGHT HAVE APPEAL TO THE GOU.
- 2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE AWARE OF CONVERSATION
 BETWEEN LUERS AND PEREZ CALDAS AND HAD DISCUSSED IDEA
 WITH JUNTA OF GENERAL OFFICERS. ROVIRA RECOGNIZED
 SENSITIVITY OF IDEA AND SAID HE HAD FULLY UNDERSTOOD
 FROM BEGINNING THAT WE WERE MERELY PRESENTING IT AS AN
 IDEA OR SUGGESTION AND NOTHING ELSE. HE ADDED THAT,
 UNFORTUNATELY, PRESENT DECISION MAKING BODY HERE IS NOW
 SO LARGE AND CUMBERSOME THAT TOO MANY PERSONS HAVE TO
 BE INVOLVED WITH WHATEVER GOES ON, INCLUDING THIS CASE.
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HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW DISTORTIONS HAD OCCURRED, BUT COULD WELL BELIEVE THAT THEY MIGHT ARISE FROM MISINFORMATION AND ALSO FROM DELIBERATE MISINTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT OUR IDEA HAD BEEN AT ITS INCEPTION.

3. ROVIRA ADDED THAT GOU WOULD PREFER TO DROP THE IDEA SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER EXCHANGE INVOLV-

ING PERSONS WHO WERE PASSING THROUGH VARIOUS STAGES OF MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM UNDER CHARGES OF SUBVERSION. I TOLD MINISTER THAT HIS ANSWER POSED NO PROBLEM FOR US AS HAD ALREADY BEEN INDICATED TO PEREZ CALDAS IN THE ORIGINAL CONVERSATION.

4. IN CONCLUSION, ROVIRA ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO PUT MATTER IN ITS CORRECT PERSPECTIVE SO AS TO CORRECT DISTORTIONS. I THANKED HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT I CONSIDERED IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT HE DO SO. HAAHR

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

TAGS: PINS, US, UR, UY, (PEREZ GERSCHUNI, JAIME), (IGUINI FERREIRA, LUIS ALBERTO)

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